

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 PM-09 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 MC-02 L-03 RSR-01 /063 W

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R 291116 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3581

INFO SECDEF

DIA

USCINCEUR

CSAF

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

USAFE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 1285

SECDEF FOR ISA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, IR

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION FOR F-5'S

REF: A. JIDDA 1216; B. JIDDA 1222

1. USMTM DHAHRAN HAS SUPPLIED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SAUDI REQUEST FOR AIR FORCE MUNITIONS AND OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE SAUDI DEFENSES ON SOUTHERN BORDER; AS DESCRIBED REFTELS.

A. RSAF PRESENTLY POSSESSES 205 EACH 25 LB. PRACTICE BOMBS WHICH ARE TO BE EXPENDED IN FIRST PHASE OF F-5 B TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH ENDS 1 AUGUST. USMTM CONCURS THAT EARLY DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES IS ESSENTIAL TO PROPER PROGRESS OF ALREADY ESTABLISHED F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT PRINCE TURKI'S REQUEST.

B. ONLY MUNITIONS RSAF HAS ON HAND FOR F-5 ARE 100 AIM-9 B AIR MISSILES. WITH EXCEPTION OF 2.75 INCH ROCKET
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MOTORS, CBU, NAPALM AND LUU-2 FLARES, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS SIGNED FMS CASES SR- AAK AND SR- AAN FEBRUARY 12, 1973 TO INCLUDE MOST OF OTHER MUNITIONS ITEMS ON SAUDI LIST (REFTEL B). USMTM NOTES GENERALLY LONG LEAD TIME RANGING FROM 9 TO 16 MONTHS FOR ROUTINE DELIVERY OF ITEMS REQUESTED. RSAF AWARE THAT 2.75 ROCKET MOTORS AND LUU-2 FLARES MUST NORMALLY BE PROCURED FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES ALTHOUGH CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN PROVIDING BOTH ITEMS FROM EXISTING USAF MUNITIONS ASSETS.
NOTE: ALL FOLLOWING SHOULD BE REGARDED AS NOFORN.

C. IT IS NOTED ALSO USAF SURVEY TEAM REPORT ON MOBILE RADAR MAY BE EXPECTED BEFORE 1 MAY AND LETTER OF OFFER SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. HOWEVER, DELIVERY OF RADAR SETS ANTICIPATED TO BE MANY MONTHS IN FUTURE, UNLESS USG PREPARED LEND ONE FROM OWN STOCKS, BUT THAT WOULD LEAVE UNRESOLVED PROBLEM OF TRAINING OPERATORS.

D. CAPABILITY OF SAUDI PILOTS FLYING F-5 B IS CONSIDERED TO BE GOOD ENOUGH NOW TO MAKE FAIRLY EFFECTIVE USE OF MUNITIONS IN EVENT THEY CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

D. LIMITATIONS ON NORTHROP PERSONNEL PARTICIPATION, AS PROVIDED BY LETTER OF OFFER MARCH 30, 1972, AND IN CONTRACT BETWEEN USG AND NORTHROP, STATE GENERALLY THAT CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ARMED CONFLICT OR IMMEDIATE PREPARATION THEREFOR. THUS, IT IS CONCLUDED THAT RSAF WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS IN GROUND MAINTENANCE AND ARMAMENT IF OPERATING F-5 S FROM KHAMIS MUSHAYT WITHOUT CONTRACTOR ASSISTANCE. SOME SORTIES, HOWEVER, COULD PROBABLY BE LAUNCHED UNTIL NORMALLY EXPECTED AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS BEGIN TO OCCUR.

2. COMMENT : OBVIOUSLY, PROBLEM OF CONTRACTOR ROLE IN FORWARD SUPPORT OF F-5 AIRCRAFT MAY BECOME TICKLISH ONE. IF WE CAN REACT TO SOME DEGREE POSITIVELY ON MUNITIONS REQUEST, THEN CONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION MATTER MAY BE MORE EASILY MANAGED, PARTICULARLY IF THERE ARE NO FURTHER FLARE- UPS AT WUDAI OR VICINITY. WUDIA ATTACK HAS NOW DROPPED FROM PRESS AND PUBLIC VIEW AND IT APPEARS SAUDI EMERGENCY RE- SUPPLY MEASURES TO SOUTH HAVE SLACKENED OFF. HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT PRINCE TURKI CONTINUE PRESS FOR
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PROMPT DELIVERY OF MUNITIONS HE HAS REQUESTED.

THACHER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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